Inside Wallops

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Goddard Space Flight Center
Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Va. Volume XX-05 Number 09 March 14, 2005

Goddard Space Flight Center Honor Awards

Congratulations to the following Wallops individuals and groups that were recognized at the GSFC Honor Awards ceremony held March 9 in Greenbelt.

Exceptional Achievement

This award recognizes individuals and teams who have made exceptional contributions to the performance of the Center's mission in any area of work that aid the Center's scientific, technical and institutional capabilities and enhances mission performance.

Presented to:

Phil Eberspeaker, NASA Sounding Rockets Program Office
"In recognition of your unique contributions to NASA GSFC's mission of inspiring the next generation of explorers and honoring diversity through your "Rocket On!" Summer Science Camp for the Blind."

Glenn Maxfield, NASA Sounding Rocket Operations Contract
"In recognition of your exceptional performance in support of the EQUIS II Sounding Rocket Campaign. Your hard work dedication and sacrifice were an inspiration to all who worked with you."

Deployment Experiments for Balloons on Mars (DEBOM) Team
"For exceptional achievement in conducting rapid response subscale prototype testing that will enable a significant future WFF role in planetary balloon technology development."

EQUIS II Campaign Support Team
"In recognition of your support for the EQUatorial Ionospheric Studies II Sounding Rocket Campaign conducted from the Kwajalein Atoll, Republic of the Marshall Islands July-September 2004."

Cosmic Ray Energetics and Mass (CREAM) Support Team
"For meritorious achievement in developing flight and ground support systems, instrument integration, and flight support of the CREAM balloon payload."

Student Experiment Carrier Development Team
"In recognition of your exceptional support to the rapid development of student experiment carrier systems for ISS and high altitude balloons."

ICESat Science Data Processing Team
"For outstanding leadership in developing the ICESat data processing system that has effectively supported scientific analysis and mission operations.

Outstanding Leadership

This award recognizes individuals in all career fields whose vision and initiative motivate others to take action consistent with the Center's Goals, Strategies and Values, which result in higher performance.

Presented to:

John Hickman, NASA Sounding Rockets Program Office
"In recognition of outstanding leadership in planning and implementation of the EQUIS II Sounding Rocket Campaign."

Rebecca Hudson Receives Salisbury University Honor

Photo by Betty Flowers

Rebecca Hudson, (left), Co-op Student in the Wallops Public Affairs Office, was recently inducted into the Delta Theta chapter of Lambda Pi Eta at Salisbury University.

Lambda Pi Eta is the official communication studies honor society of the National Communication Association.

Students inducted in the organization must display a keen interest in the field of communications, as well as achieving the highest caliber of academic excellence. Hudson is a Communications (Public Relations/Journalism) major and an English and History minor and has been named to the Dean's List for the previous two semesters.

Wallops Shorts……

In the News

CNN -- "Aurora Rocket Crashes After Launch"

Anchorage Daily News
"Rocket Crashes in Interior" and
"Aurora Rocket Malfunctions, Crashes North of Fairbanks"

SpaceRef, Virginia AP News, WESR Radio -- "Virginia Tech Students Prepare to Launch Experiment on NASA Rocket"

Eastern Shore News -- "Middle School Students at NASA Wallops" and "Baseball star Mary Pratt visits Wallops in a League of her Own"

60 Years of Exploration

Volunteers are needed for the 60th Anniversary Planning Team. Call Betty Flowers, x1584.

Virginia Tech Students Prepare to Launch Experiment on NASA Rocket

In addition to their normal studies, a group of students from Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, have been working feverishly to prepare their experiments for launch aboard a NASA rocket.

The undergraduate students in the Department of Aerospace and Ocean Engineering will see their efforts pay off with the launch of a single-stage Orion sounding rocket from Wallops Island. The launch is currently scheduled for Tuesday, March 15, between 6 and 9 a.m., with Wednesday, Thursday and Friday as back-up days.

The 194-pound Mesospheric Aerosol-Genesis and Composition (MAGIC) experiment housed in the nose cone is designed to collect dust particles in the mesospheric range of the atmosphere. This is the first of a series of three launches incorporated into the University's engineering curriculum to provide hands-on mechanical, electrical and aerospace engineering experience.

Part of the NASA Sounding Rocket Operations Contract, (NSROC), Cooperative Education Program, the launch provides students with the opportunity to take what they learn in the classroom and apply it in a unique hands-on space flight activity. The MAGIC experiment was developed under the direction of personnel from the Naval Research Lab, Washington, D.C.

"This launch confirms my position that the success or failure of the experiment, while icing on the cake, is really a small part of the educational experience we are trying to offer," said Wallops Sounding Rocket Program Office Chief, Phil Eberspeaker. "No matter what happens during flight, we have essentially already accomplished the goal of the outreach activity – educating the aerospace leaders of the future and providing the hands-on experience to apply textbook theory to real situations."

The students' work included design of a unique, 7-foot nose cone with a deployable tip. The MAGIC sensors extend in sequence when the tip deploys, collect the dust particles, and retract behind a self-sealing ceramic cover before parachuting to the ocean for recovery. They also analyzed weight, apogee and insulation requirements, completed the mechanical engineering design of the payload, and made the initial and final pre-launch presentations to NASA managers.

"The challenge was to integrate the small but extremely sensitive MAGIC experiment into the sounding rocket's highly complex systems," said Cathy Herman, Virginia Tech Student Team Leader.

The launch will be webcast on: http://www.wff.nasa.gov/webcast/index.html

Middle School Students Have a NASA Adventure

Middle school students from across the country will be heading to the east coast for a NASA adventure in exploration using balloons at the edge of space.

The students from NASA Explorer Schools (NES) will participate in "Balloon Adventure Week" this week.

Two students and their teacher from five NES schools in Tennessee, Louisiana, Wisconsin, Washington and Indiana were selected to travel to Virginia to prepare their experiment samples for flight on a future high altitude NASA scientific balloon mission.

"Students will have opportunities to work with the NASA team to participate in experiments that they have designed to answer questions about high altitude conditions. During the workshop experience, they also will learn about potential careers with NASA," said Peggy Steffen, NASA Explorer Schools Program Manager, Washington, D.C.

The students and teachers will work directly with NASA launch experts to prepare their Space Experiment Module for a future science balloon flight and will participate in a smaller weather balloon mission from the launch control center at Wallops.

The student experiments will focus on the effects of solar radiation on seed growth, paint and other insulation materials as shielding from solar radiation, and the effects of altitude on cell phones.

After the flight, the experiment samples will be returned to the students to compare with un-flown control samples.

The schools represent 5 of the 100 NASA Explorer Schools in the program at the present time. The schools partner with NASA over a three-year period to increase student interest, performance and participation in science, mathematics, and technology fields of study and careers.

Happy St. Patrick's Day

Celebrate with the "Unplugged Group" in the Cafeteria on March 17. At 4:35 p.m., stop by the Rocket Club for green beer, Irish music and free food.

On March 18, the "Unplugged Group" will play in the Club after 4:30 p.m. – more green beer and free food.

Call for NASA College Scholarship Fund Applications

The NASA College Scholarship Fund, is announcing its 2005 Agencywide call for applications. The NCSF awards undergraduate scholarships to NASA dependents and former NASA employees pursuing a course of study in science and engineering fields. Four scholarships will be awarded in 2005 in the amount of $2,000 each, renewable for a maximum of $8,000 over six calendar years.

Eligibility requirements and application forms may be viewed at: http://nasapeople.nasa.gov/nasascholarship/index.htm.

All completed application forms, transcripts, scores, reference letters or materials must be received by Monday, March 21 at the following address:

NASA Johnson Space Center
NASA College Scholarship Fund, Inc.
Building 12, Room 105
2101 NASA Parkway
Houston, TX 77058

Inside Wallops is an official publication of Goddard Space Flight Center and is published by the Wallops Office of Public Affairs, Extension 1584, in the interest of Wallops employees. Recent and past issues of *Inside Wallops* also may be found on the NASA Wallops Flight Facility homepage: www.wff.nasa.gov

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